

SECRET

1 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Lodge's 1 March 1967 Weekly (Saigon 19209)

The only portions of this you need bother with are the following:

(1) Paragraphs 4-7: Ky's views re the pressure South Vietnam's political evolution is exerting on Hanoi. Ky is probably right.

(2) Paragraphs 8-10: Lodge's view on the hands-off policy he thinks the U.S. should adopt with regard to presidential candidates. He is on sound ground, but there is a strong current in the Department to oppose Thieu if Thieu should run. (I believe he wants to, but will not be named as the military's candidate.)

(3) Paragraphs 27-28: Lodge's comments on the rocket attack on Danang. He says he wishes he knew what it portends. I am fairly confident that it portends further harassment of U.S. bases initiated partly for political effect, but primarily to impel us to assign more of our forces to static defense duties and thus improve (for the Communists) the VC/NVA-allied force maneuver battalion ratio.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

SECRET